

POINT MOLATE FOCUS



NEWS OF THE NFD POINT MOLATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

ISSUE 15, FALL 2003

Community Tours Point Molate

TOUR OF NAVY BASE WELL RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY

In addition to participating in regular meetings, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and other community members have taken part in periodic tours of sites undergoing environmental study and cleanup at the former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate. The base was closed in 1995 as part of the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program.

On August 9, 2003, nearly 150 community members visited the Navy property and toured various sites and areas, both historic and environmental. Following the RAB meeting held in the Administration Building, tour members walked to the historic Winehaven Building and ventured inside. The Winehaven Building, constructed in 1908 by the California Wine Association, operated successfully as a wine production and shipping facility until the winery was closed shortly after Prohibition took effect in 1920.

After regrouping in front of the Administration Building, the public broke into groups and toured various areas of the base by vehicle. Vans visited the former Waste Disposal Area, or Installation Restoration Program (IR) Site 1. Here tour members learned about the former landfill activities and subsequent study and cleanup activities, saw the landfill cover that was revegetated with a mixture composed of native plant seeds, and viewed the oil/water separator and methane venting systems at the former landfill. The next stop was Tank 19, one of 20 concrete underground storage tanks. This 2.1-million-gallon reservoir once held fuel

that was pumped to ships berthed at the Point Molate Pier. Before heading back to the Administration Building, the van looped around the upper hillside road, where tour members saw other underground storage tanks. The loop road also provided a spectacular view of San Francisco Bay, Marin County, and San Francisco.

Also starting from the Administration Building, vans visited IR Site 3, the Treatment Ponds Area; IR Site 4, Drum Lot #1; and the Fuel Pier. Drum Lot #1 was the site of petroleum drum filling, storage, and transfer during World War II. Visitors were also able to view the fuel pier with several miles of pipes as large as 20 inches in diameter, as well as the sophisticated loading equipment at the end of the pier. For safety reasons, the public was restricted to viewing the pier from the land.

A third van route took tour members to visit the historic Winemaster's Cottage, home of the former wine master during the Winehaven years and later home to the Navy's commanding officers during the property's tenure as a fuel depot. The Winemaster's Cottage is an example of early 1900s style (with the addition of some more recent "upgrades") and offers a commanding view of the Bay and beyond from the upstairs windows.

Before, during, and following the tour, Navy personnel and their contractors were on hand to answer the community's questions. The community's response to the tour was overwhelmingly positive and appreciative of the opportunity to visit the property.

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Treatment Ponds Being Removed

The Navy is removing three treatment ponds from former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate. The three treatment ponds, each approximately 40 feet wide, 400 feet long, and sloping to a depth of 8 feet, are located near the shoreline in the center of the installation. These ponds were constructed in 1974 to collect and treat petroleum-contaminated water that gathered in perimeter drains around the underground storage tanks in the facility's hillsides. Prior to 1974, a waste oil pond was located on the site.

Aeration of the treatment ponds (adding air to the water) was used to break down contaminants by biodegradation (using naturally occurring microbes to break down the petroleum). Removal of the ponds and related sampling will help the Navy, regulators, Restoration Advisory Board, and local community learn more about the contamination that is beneath the ponds as a result of the prior waste oil pond.



Photo by Don Gosney

View of treatment ponds looking north

The ponds will be removed by draining them of standing water, excavating soils and sludge from the sides and bottoms, collecting soil samples, backfilling the excavation with clean soil, and restoring the site. Approximately 5,600 cubic yards

(8,960 tons) of soil and 1,300 cubic yards (2,080 tons) of sludge will be excavated and disposed off-site as part of this project. Completion is expected in 2003.

Community Tour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo by Don Gosney

On August 9, 2003, the Richmond community had the opportunity to see the former Naval Fuel Depot Point Molate first hand

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD NAVY CO-CHAIR MICHAEL BLOOM

Michael Bloom... BRAC Environmental Coordinator

As the BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC) for Point Molate, Michael Bloom's responsibilities include procuring the necessary funding; securing qualified vendors and contractors; ensuring that reports are prepared, disseminated and reviewed; and coordinating with the regulatory agencies on the Navy's cleanup efforts. But, more importantly, Michael's role also includes assuring that the Navy stays in communication with the Point Molate community, providing community members with the information they seek, listening to their concerns, and working closely with the Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board to address environmental issues on the former Navy base.

"As long as the Navy remains responsible for cleanup on the property, the RAB will continue to play a role in the environmental cleanup process."

When Michael took on this new role as the Navy Co-chair for the Point Molate RAB in November of 2002, he and his team took extra steps to get to know the members of the RAB and to make sure that they knew him as well. Michael ensured that the community at large was kept informed of activities at Point Molate, and orchestrated a tremendously successful public tour of the site on August 9th. Nearly 150 visitors spent over three hours visiting points of interest and questioning the plethora of experts the Navy had on hand about the environmental cleanup activities at Point Molate.

As Michael points out, the BEC needs to have an overall strategy that leads to the successful closeout of the environmental program. To this end, Michael and his team of Navy remedial project managers and contractors have formalized the Environmental Master Schedule for Point Molate into a document that reflects progress of the environmental investigation and cleanup process. This Master Schedule is updated regularly with input from regulators and RAB members.

In addition to his responsibilities at Point Molate, Michael also serves as the BEC at the former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Crows Landing in Stanislaus County. Before joining the Point Molate RAB, Michael worked with the Treasure Island team as the Lead Remedial Project Manager in charge of environmental restoration projects.

Michael attended San Diego State University for the first time where he earned his B.S. in Business Administration/Marketing (1982), and returned to earn his Master of Public Health (with an Environmental Health emphasis) in 1995. His family consists of his wife Melissa, 13-year-old daughter Emily, and Winston the pug. Michael enjoys hiking, traveling abroad, and spending time on the links mastering the art of the small ball.

Although most of Point Molate has been turned over to the city of Richmond for development, the Navy will continue its cleanup efforts until completed. Michael understands and works well with his community co-

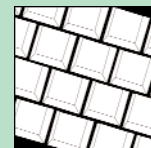


Photo by Don Gosney

chair and the rest of the RAB members. This relationship is key to a well-functioning RAB. Michael is committed to working with the RAB to ensure that the environmental cleanup of Point Molate is completed in a timely, economic and efficient manner.

"The Navy and the RAB, together with the citizens of Richmond and adjacent communities, are partners in making decisions relating to the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program at Point Molate."

DID YOU KNOW?



You can read more about the Navy's environmental program on the

internet! The Navy's Southwest Division Environmental Web Page address is

<http://www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/envhome.htm>

Current RAB Members Fall 2003

Shirley Butt
Henry Clark
Don Delcollo
Lucretia Edwards
Sarah Eeles
Gaye Eisenlord
Richard Frisbie
Sharon Fuller
Don Gosney
Arnie Kasendorf
Jil Kiernan
Myron King
Kent Kitchingman
Stephen Linsley
Sharon Maves
Scott Miller
Margaret Morkowski
Nagaraja Rao
Jean Siri
Elinor Strauss
Eileen Whitty

You Are Invited to Attend

The Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides a forum for community members, the Navy, and state and federal regulatory agencies to discuss cleanup issues and approaches. The RAB currently meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every other month at 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond City Library – Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room. The meetings are open to the public, and the RAB and the Navy encourage you to attend.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POINT MOLATE

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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Environmental cleanup site-related documents are available for public review at:

Richmond Redevelopment Agency
 (510) 307-8140
 1401 Marina Way South
 Richmond, CA 94804
 Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Richmond Public Library
 (510) 620-6561
 325 Civic Center Plaza
 Richmond, CA 94804
 Hours: M-Th 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
 F & Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Su 1-5 p.m.

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